



Safety FLASH

FLAGGING

US Army Corps
of Engineers ®

Flagging

Flagging is a very important and demanding job. Flaggers protect workers and the traveling public. It is unfortunate and sometimes disastrous that too often flagging is assigned to unmotivated or untrained people. Supervisors may assume that everyone knows how to flag when, in fact, workers need to be trained to be effective flaggers.

Flaggers need the proper attitude, the proper equipment; and proper training. Proper attitude includes being: Alert Motivated Committed

To maintain attention level and alertness, it is important to relieve flaggers regularly.

Equipment should include:

Stop-slow paddle (preferred) or red flag (in emergency situations) or red Stop/Slow flag

High visibility Retroreflective vest or jacket.

Suitable clothes/footwear

Two-way radio to communicate between flaggers if hand signals will not work

Hard hat

"FLAGGER AHEAD" sign and other work zone traffic control devices

Proper Training

The first rule of flagging is do not stand in the travel lane! The proper place to stand in order to stop traffic is at the right shoulder of the road. That way, if the driver doesn't see the signal to stop or slow down, the flagger won't get hit.

Flaggers should always have an escape route. It is preferable for drivers to hit traffic cones and stop in the buffer area than to hit the flagger. Make sure that the sight distance is long enough to allow drivers time to see and react (500 feet on faster roads, 200 feet in slower areas).

It is important to train all flaggers to adhere to standard signals. Non-standard actions will confuse drivers.

To Stop Traffic:

Stand on the edge of the road facing traffic

Hold up your left hand palm outward, like a Police Officer

Hold the paddle out away from your body, the STOP side toward traffic

If you are using a flag, hold it out horizontally. Do not wave the flag! It confuses drivers.

Make eye contact with the driver

If necessary, after the first car has stopped you may go to the center of the road to stop succeeding cars.

If two flaggers are working, use a two-way radio or hand signal to tell the other flagger that your traffic is stopped. Do not use the flag to signal.

To Release Traffic:

After receiving the signal from the other flagger, step back to the shoulder of the road, turn your paddle to SLOW.

With your free hand, motion traffic to proceed.

Do not wave the flag! It confuses drivers.

To make sure drivers see your flagger, remember these tips. Flaggers should...

Be dressed appropriately

Wear a clean, regulation vest

Stand alone, away from other people

Face traffic and make eye contact with drivers

Be alert and pay attention

Make sure that flaggers have a good escape route in case a driver fails



Flagger stopping traffic



Flagger motioning traffic to proceed



Flagger slowing traffic

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Be Safe. Share The Ways!